



The Metropolitan Community Church

AT MOBILE

4500 BIT AND SPUR ROAD

MOBILE, ALABAMA 36608

Rev. MARGE RAGONA

(205) 476-9142

Pastor

NEWSLETTER



5300 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 304, Los Angeles, California 90029 (213) 464-5100

RE: Supreme Court ruling on the Georgia State Sodomy Case

The Board of Elders of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is shocked and dismayed at the ruling of the United States Supreme Court that the Constitution does not protect the privacy and rights of consenting adults. When the Law of the Land makes it illegal for two people to love each other and freely express that love in the privacy of their own homes - such a law is unjust and immoral.

It is a violation of the spirit of the framers of the Constitution whose dream it was to have a government that afforded citizens maximum protection from undue government interference in the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

It is significant that it was such a sharply divided decision. The lack of agreement within the court reflects the conflict surrounding this issue in America. We are encouraged by the Justices who opposed this decision, and regret the action of the narrow majority.

It also gives a signal to Gay and Lesbian Citizens, and all who do not conform to court "approved" sexual practices that they cannot expect to receive government protection for their rights. It opens the door to further repression and backlash against the Gay and Lesbian community.

We will ask our membership to pursue remedy through the legislative process to ensure that the rights of Lesbian and Gay people are protected through the enactment of civil rights legislation. We will also pursue the election of a President who will support and sign such legislation.

The Reverend Troy D. Perry, Founder



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EDITORIAL POLICY

We would like to say again that responses to the newsletter are welcome. We welcome articles from individuals and community organizations as well as contributions to keep the newsletter going. We will do our best to print articles as time and space allow. We require, for legal protection of the church, that a name and address be submitted with the news copy for publication. Be assured, we will not publish anyone's name or address without written consent.

Please drop articles or editorial replies by the church or mail to 4500 Bit and Spur Rd., Mobile, AL. 36608. The deadline for all items is now the third Monday of each month. Thanks.

TO: THE STAFF OF THE MCC NEWSLETTER

Your article on the death of Buddy Shipp was a grave disservice to the memory of a wonderful man. To categorically state that Buddy lost the will to live after his mother's death and then sought his own through alcohol is not merely insensitive but untrue as well.

Those of us who truly knew Buddy know him to have been a man with a rare appreciation of life with all its' absurdities. Contrary to your article, Buddy was not in fact ready to die but accepted his approaching end with an admirable dignity - a dignity denied him by your summing up his life and death with a pathetic little self-serving parable on the evils of drink. He lived his life with apologies to no one, he would certainly have had no need for your self-righteous pronouncements as to why he is no longer with us.

Fortunately Buddy had many friends who will remember him fondly and perhaps more importantly, truthfully. Your article was an offense to us all.

TO MCC

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you, Shirley and Rev. Marge, for being by my side during the illness and death of Buddy Shipp. No one will ever know what it meant to me to see both of you at 5:00 AM that morning at the hospital when I was informed of his passing. Maybe some of the time Buddy did not know of your presence, but I will never forget the time you all spent by his side. Rev. Marge conducted a wonderful service.

I would like to thank the following people for contributions and donations: Rev. Marge, Shirley, Mary Ann, Mary Bell, Bill [Miller Co.], Darrell [Gulf Dist.], Mel, Debbie, Bob [Top Music], Bertha, Holly, Clarice, Dot, Betty Yates [Society], also a special thanks to Society for their special effort in collecting money, also Corral, Royal and Club Royal, and the Esquire. We want to also mention a great effort put forth on the show presented in Buddy's memory system. It was wonderful of all of you to show so much compassion and to give of your time on everything that made the show a success. Because each of you as Buddy's friend donated your tips, the show raised \$401.00. I'm sure I've overlooked someone's name. Please don't be offended. Those of you who did not want your names mentioned, thanks also. A very special thanks to Radney Funeral Home: Mr. Radney and Bill Havens. A very special thanks to Mr. Luce of Yellow Cab Co. and Pine Crest Cemetery, thanks for all your help and donations.

FROM GRACE

EVENTS SCHEDULE

RAP SERIES

MCC continues the Tuesday Night Rap Series. New topics of discussion are now being formulated. Call 476-9142 for more details.

MGLCC MEETING?

MGLCC will meet Jul. 14, 1986 at CPA. This is not confirmed at this time. Someone forgot to get back in touch.

CHECK IT OUT

MOVIE - "As Is" on Showtime July 27 & 31 at 8:00 P.M.

MCC WORSHIP SERVICE

TIME: SUNDAY - 7:00 P.M.
WHERE: 4500 BIT & SPUR RD.
CALL: 476-9142 for more information

St. Peter's Lutheran Worship

Sunday School: 9:00 A.M.
Worship: 10:15 A.M.
Where: 4500 Bit & Spur Rd.
Call: 344-4806 for more information

Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship

Worship: 10:30 A.M.
Where: 6345 Old Shell Rd.
Call: 342-6834 for more information

If you know of someone who is handicapped who needs a Summer Camping/Crafts experience, Please contact St. Peter's Lutheran Church at 344-4806

Experienced Electrical Purchasing Agent needs employment. Call 476-9142 for details.

WHEN A FRIEND HAS AIDS

When a friend has AIDS you may feel helpless or inadequate. Here are some suggestions that may help you help someone who is very ill.

Don't avoid them. Be the friend you've always been.
Touch them. A hug can let them know you still care.
Call before you visit. They may not feel up to a visitor that day.
Don't be afraid to call back.

Take them out, but ask about and know their limitations.

Help their lovers, roommates or family. Though they aren't the ones who are sick, they may also be suffering and need a small break from time to time. Invite them out. They need someone to talk to as well as the one with AIDS.

Don't be reluctant to ask about their illness. They may need to talk about it. Find out by asking.

Don't feel that you both have to talk. It's OK to sit together silently. Much can be expressed without words.

Include them in decision making. They've been robbed of so many things, and have lost control over so many aspects of their life. Don't deny them a chance to make decisions.

Be prepared for them to get angry with you for no "obvious reason", although you've been there and done everything you could. Permit them this, and don't take it personally. Feel flattered that they are close enough to you to risk sharing their anger and frustration.

Don't lecture or become angry if they seem to be handling their illness in a way you think is inappropriate. They may not be where you expect or need them to be. Don't permit them to blame themselves for their illness. Being gay didn't give them AIDS. Remind them that lifestyles don't cause disease, germs do.

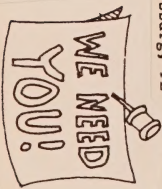
If the two of you are going to have sex, be informed about risk reduction measures. Head them! Be imaginative....touch, stroke, massage. Sex need not always be genital to be fun.

Don't confuse their acceptance of the illness with defeat. This may give them a sense of their own power.

Don't allow them or their lovers to become isolated. Let them know about support groups and other services.

Cry with them when they cry. Laugh with them when they laugh. Don't be afraid to share feelings.

Written by Chelsea Psychotherapy Associates.
Reprinted from THE KINGS MESSENGER, Newsletter of King of Peace MCC, St. Petersburg, FL



A chapter of Dignity is attempting to organize in the Mobile area. Dignity is an international organization of Gay/Lesbian Catholics and their friends. Initial meetings have already been held in this area, and another will be held in late August. If you are interested call John P. at 342-7891.

A PSALM OF SUMMER

NOW IT CAME TO PASS THAT SPRING TURNED TO SUMMER AGAIN.
GOD'S PEOPLE RAISED THEIR VOICES AND SAID:

RECREATION IS MY SHEPHERD, I SHALL STAY HOME:
HE MAKETH ME TO LIE DOWN IN A SLEEPING BAG:
HE LEADETH ME DOWN THE INTERSTATE EACH WEEKEND.
HE RESTORETH MY SUNTAN;
HE LEADETH ME TO STATE PARKS FOR COMFORT'S SAKE;
EVEN THOUGH I STRAY ON THE LORD'S DAY,
I WILL FEAR NO REPRIMAND,
FOR THOU ART WITH ME, MY ROD AND REEL THEY COMFORT ME.
I ANOINTEST MY SKIN WITH OIL,
MY GAS TANK RUNNETH DRY:
SURELY MY TRAILER SHALL FOLLOW ME ALL THE WEEKENDS
THIS SUMMER, AND I SHALL RETURN TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD
THIS FALL.
BUT THEN IT IS HUNTING SEASON, AND THAT'S ANOTHER PSALM.
Reprinted from THE CRUSADER, Newsletter of MCC_Tampa,FL.

UU'S RECEIVE CONDEMNATION FOR SUPPORTING GAY PRIDE WEEK

A postcard, signed "A concerned citizen" was received by the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship after they lent the use of their property to MGLCC for the Gay Pride picnic. The postcard reads: "Concerning your participation in 'Homosexual Week' -- God loves you -- but not your sin in condoning this 'acquired practice.' You will face HIM someday -- and what can you say to defend yourselves. Please read and take to heart, 1st Corinthians, 6th Chapter and Chapt. 10:13 to 11:04. I beg you to do this, and try to save your sinful, wicked souls." Our thanks go to the UUs for their kindness and for their courage in taking this kind of condemnation on behalf of the Gay community. You live out your principles of fairness for all people. Thanks, again.



"I think Sally waited too long
to come out of her closet."

ESQUIRE BAR & LOUNGE

13 S. JOACHIM ST.
433-9175

MON-FRI 9:30 am - till
Saturday 9:30 am - 2:00 am

CLASSIFIED ADS

PLUMBING - Indoors, reasonable rates.
Expert service. Call evenings after 6,
or Mondays, 476-5171, as for Harry.

CLEANING-INTERIOR PAINTING, WALLPAPER.
Organize your precious collectibles??
Excellent references in both
communities. 476-9142, ask for Shirley.

GAY COMMUNITY HELP LINE & AIDS HOT LINE

476-9142

"Call Us...We Can Help"

